

What is claimed is:

1. A method of limiting the speed of a vehicle, the method comprising the steps of:
 - determining the environmental conditions of said vehicle;
 - determining a maximum permissible speed in dependence upon
 - 5 the determined environmental conditions; and,
 - limiting the speed of said vehicle to said maximum permissible speed.
2. The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of determining said environmental conditions in dependence upon at least one of the following: rain intensity, humidity, ambient temperature, ambient pressure and ambient brightness.
3. The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of disabling said limiting when an operator-controlled element is actuated beyond a pregiven threshold angle.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein said operator-controlled element is an accelerator pedal.
5. The method of claim 3, wherein said limiting is disabled when the actuation of said operator-controlled element beyond said pregiven threshold has been present for at least a first pregiven time.
6. The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of disabling said limiting when at least one of said environmental conditions passes a pregiven threshold.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said limiting is disabled when at least one of the following occurs: the rain intensity drops below a first pregiven value; the ambient brightness exceeds a second pregiven value; the ambient temperature exceeds a third pregiven value and the ambient pressure exceeds a fourth pregiven value.

8. The method of claim 1, comprising the further step of disabling the limiting when a switch-off condition is present.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said switch-off condition is present when at least one of the following occurs: the wheel slip of said vehicle drops below a fifth pregiven value and the instantaneous speed of said vehicle drops below a sixth pregiven value.

10. The method of claim 5, wherein said limiting only becomes active when the environmental conditions, which lead to the determination of the maximum permissible speed, are present uninterrupted for a second pregiven time and the instantaneous speed of said vehicle exceeds the maximum permissible speed.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein said limiting of the speed is realized by limiting a driver command torque or is realized by limiting a degree of actuation of an operator-controlled element.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said operator-controlled element is an accelerator pedal.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein an increase of the speed of

said vehicle above the maximum permissible speed is carried out in the form of a ramp function or iteratively in a pregiven step width.

14. Arrangement for limiting the speed of a vehicle, the arrangement including:

means for determining the environmental conditions of said vehicle;

5 means for determining a maximum permissible speed in dependence upon the determined environmental conditions; and,

means for limiting the speed of said vehicle to said maximum permissible speed.